

This month I'll have served as pastor for 5 ½ yrs. In this time, there's not been a month we haven't been looking for staff. I have to tell you, I'm sick of looking at resumes. I don't mind the interviewing process, I despise pouring over resumes. Trying to pick a paper champion based on what's on paper can be quite cryptic. Let me tell you, after looking at 1000's of resumes, I don't know if I can handle another typo. Recently I came across an e-mail full of humorous mistakes people have made on their resumes:

- I served as an assistant store manager – **SORE** manager
- I went to school on a full scholarship – **FOOL** scholarship
- I was involved in running the Midwest div. – **RUINING** the Midwest div.
- Question on a Federal job application: Do you favor the overthrow of the U.S. gov. by force, subversion or violence? Apparently this person thought it was a multiple choice b/c they wrote: Violence

So the next time you find yourself looking for a job, take the time to make sure there are no typos on your resume. And once you get a job – be your best. You don't want to give your supervisor an excuse to be critical of you. Here are some actual employee evaluations:

- This employee works well under constant supervision and when cornered like a rat in a trap
- This employee is depriving a village somewhere of an idiot
- This man slipped into the gene pool when the lifeguard wasn't watching
- This woman brings great of joy to the team – when she leaves the room
- While most of our employees drank from the fountain of knowledge – this man only gargled
- Gates are down; lights are flashing; train's nowhere in sight

We're continuing our study in *1st Peter* entitled **GLOW**. When something **glows** it *emits* a steady radiance of light. Thru Peter we learn Christians are called to **GLOW** by emitting the radiance of Christ in us to the world around us. One specific place we're called to glow is in our place of work whether that is in an office, on a plane, in a ditch, or in a classroom. In fact, Peter's going to offer the same directive to his readers as Paul did to the Ephesians/Colossians.

Slaves, submit yourselves to your masters w/ all respect, not only to those who are good and considerate, but also to those who are harsh. For it is commendable if a man bears up under the pain of unjust suffering b/c he is conscious of God. But how is it to your credit if you receive a beating for doing wrong and endure it? But if you suffer for doing good and you endure it, this is commendable before God. 2:18-21

I know what you're thinking. You're thinking – *Pastor, what has this got to do w/ me and my employment. Are you calling me a slave? I'm no one's slave. I chose my profession – and I have freedom in my job to do as I will.*

Well, before you jump to too many conclusions and get bent out of shape, let me explain a few things.

There are (2) words for *slave* in the N.T. – *doulos/oiketai*. In this text – Peter chooses *oiketai* the less strict of the two.

slave (*oiketai*) root *house* – one who serves the home.

Throughout the Roman Empire, it was estimated there were over 60 mil. slaves who served at the pleasure of Caesar. By Roman law, a slave was a *thing* – a commodity to be used and brokered. And while all of them were considered pieces of property, most slaves were treated w/ great respect and dignity by their owners – although not always.

These slaves weren't likely what you're thinking. While there were those who performed menial, hard-labored tasks, the majority of slaves had tremendous skills and served both the Empire and their master's estate by performing duties ranging from farmers to cooks to accountants, to doctors. **Meaning slaves provided the majority of the labor-force in the Empire.**

Translated into modern terminology – this text refers to anyone who serves under the authority of another person to accomplish a task or fulfill a duty. A *Private* in the army is a slave to the *General* who's a slave to the *Joint Chiefs* who are slaves to *Congress/President*. In your work, you're a servant to a boss who's sub-servant to a CEO who's under a board of trustees.

I Work for Your Boss as if they were JESUS

Slaves submit yourselves to your masters w/ all respect...this is commendable to God.

What'd happen tomorrow if you clocked in to work for your boss as if he/she were Jesus? Would anything change from last week? Would anyone notice a difference?

submit (*hupotasso*) military term meaning to put oneself under another in rank. In context, it means to intentionally and respectfully align yourself under your earthly boss to accomplish the job he's given you. We do this by doing our best. Paul told the Colossians – *Whatever you do, work at it w/ all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for men.*

Don't just do the minimum that will get you by. Do your best. Keep in mind always that the ultimate Master you're serving is Christ. The sullen servant who does shoddy work will be held responsible. Message

What does this mean? It means my employer is supposed to get my very best every day, all day b/c God expects my best! It means being a Christian is NO excuse for poor/lazy work b/c God deserves our best. It means taking responsibility for whatever has been entrusted to you; always giving your best.

We're not to approach our jobs w/ apathy/indifference being ½ hearted employees – we're called to GLOW in our work by being people who go the extra mile. God always expects that we do more than the minimum.

In the time of Jesus, the Jews were under the domination of the Rome. Based on the law, a Roman soldier had the legal authority to demand that any Jew carry his equipment for one mile. The Jews hated this and they bitterly counted each step. At exactly one mile, they'd drop the load and w/ bitter disgust, they'd say, "There! I've done what is required, now don't bother me anymore!" But in **Matthew 5:41**, Jesus required a higher standard for His followers.

If someone forces you to go one mile, go w/ him two miles.

Mt. 5:41

A Roman soldier wouldn't soon forget the person who cheerfully carried his equipment the 2nd mile. The question is – "Are you a one or two mile worker?" Do you do only the bare minimum that's expected or do you go the 2nd mile and leave the mark of excellence on your work?

Do you know the opposite of excellence? **apathy** – meaning *w/out feelings*. In our vernacular it means, “I don’t care.” In a recent survey, Americans were asked, “What’s the biggest problem in America, ignorance or apathy?” The #1 answer given was “I don’t know and I don’t care.”

People remember 2nd milers. Around 1920 a pharmacist bought a drug store south Chicago. Soon, he was bored w/ his job and began to dream how he could make it more exciting. It was during a time when people were just beginning to call in their orders, so this man decided to challenge himself to make his job more interesting. He decided to see how quickly he could deliver a phone order. When someone called in, he repeated the order aloud, including the name and address. As he spoke w/ the caller, his assistant filled the order and a driver left immediately to deliver it. The druggist kept the customer on the phone chatting until the order arrived. This kind of prompt service was revolutionary and soon his pharmacy became the busiest in Chicago. He bought other stores and began adding new ideas like a soda fountain, and w/in a few years, he had a chain of stores. Can you guess his name? Charles Walgreen. Today, there are over 5,000 Walgreen’s b/c of a man who decided to go the 2nd mile.

In everything you do, in word and in deed, do it unto the glory of God. Col. 3:17

II Work for Your Boss w/out COMPLAINING

For it is commendable if a man bears up under the pain of unjust suffering b/c he is conscious of God.

The simple reality is that we're all going to have unpleasant work experiences. Yet when this happens the Bible says we should endure w/out complaining. It appears to be the favorite American sport.

A 6 yr. old girl wrote a letter to God that said, "Thank you for the baby brother, but what I prayed for was a puppy!"

How many times have you sat in the employee lunchroom w/ coworkers and hear a person complain about a change in the office? W/in 5 min. everyone at the table feels obliged to chime in w/ their own gripes.

In 2010, Gallup took a poll – 74% of workers complained they feel stress on the job. 32% say their job is the #1 stress in their lives. 42% complained that yelling/verbal abuse was common. 14% admitted they wanted to strike a co-worker in past year. 18% said they'd been threatened in the past year.

Complaining is contagious – infectious. It's hard not to become a carrier. If you're waiting for your job to behave – expect a long wait!"

Larry Burkett was a broadcaster who taught on Christian financial principles. In one program he spoke on the value of hiring Christian employees. Later he received a sad letter from a listener, “I heard your program and decided to hire all Christians. I did and I’ve never had a more griping group of people. They were always mumbling about something. I’ve replaced them w/ refugees who are so grateful to work; they’ll do everything I ask w/out grumbling/complaining. I think Christians need to wake up.”

Everybody has tough days at work; but b/c we follow Jesus, we should react differently.

We work hard w/ our own hands. When we are cursed, we bless; when we are persecuted, we endure it. When we are slandered we answer kindly. 1 Cr. 4:12

We need to remember that life isn’t fair – but God is good. When you go through tough times at work don’t become a whiner – be a winner. God is watching and you’re really working for Him.

III Claim Your Workplace as Your MISSION Field

Can I be honest? I think we’ve committed a great disservice to the Bible and the Christian community by creating a limited category of jobs we call “full time” Christian service.

We think people like pastors/missionaries are the only ones in full-time ministry service. But the truth is if you're a Christian, then you're in *full-time* Christian service. God has a call on your life just like has a call on my life. Some He has called to work inside the church to equip/encourage the saints, but most He has called you to be an **on-mission** doctors, truck driver, pilot, teacher, homemaker...

Make it your ambition to lead a quiet life, to mind your own business and to work w/ your hands, just as we told you, so that your daily life may win the respect of outsiders and so that you will not be dependent on anybody. 1 Th. 4:11-12

To claim your workplace as your mission field doesn't mean that you have to set up a pulpit in the break room and start preaching. The best ways you can serve God in your job is by doing it w/ excellence – that's how you win respect.

Jesus never commanded us to engage in theological debates w/ strangers, flaunt 4" crosses and Jesus stickers, or throw out Christian catch phrases. But He did tell us to work and live in such a way that when the H.S. orchestrates opportunities to speak about God, we will have earned the right to do so. *Bill Hybels*

The Secret of Job Fulfillment: Find something you like to do so much that you'd gladly do it for nothing; then learn to do it so well people are happy to pay you for it.